

Fish and Wildlife Service assists Forest Service with Kids4Trees

Article by Dan Gregg, Mississippi Field Office, Jackson, Mississippi, 2011

For the second year in a row, the Mississippi Field Office (MFO) assisted the U.S. Forest Service with conducting the environmental education program Kids4Trees for about 500 school children in celebration of Earth Day.

Third- and fourth-grade students from Taylorsville Elementary in Taylorsville, Mississippi; and fourth, fifth and sixth graders from Magee Middle in Magee, Mississippi, attended the function. The pupils broke up in groups and rotated through nine different educational stations, staffed by agency biologists, to learn about wildlife, forestry, fire, archaeology, soils, safety and general conservation.

In addition, the students listened to environmentally-themed songs by the popular U.S. Forest Service's Blues Rangers band, interacted with Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl, and the older kids planted trees. Many of the children created posters about trees or Earth Day prior to the event that were displayed during the event. The posters were judged and a winner from each class was awarded a prize.

Special European guests, the Children's Choir of Famars from France, participated in the Kids4Trees field day and entertained the American students with some of their French songs.

Organized in 2008, the non-profit Kids4Trees works with the U.S. Forest Service to provide outdoor forest education.

